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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/986,047	11/07/2001	Toshio Kikuchi	040356-0405	4830
22428	7590	04/18/2003		
FOLEY AND LARDNER SUITE 500 3000 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007			EXAMINER MULLINS, BURTON S	
			ART UNIT 2834	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/986,047	KIKUCHI ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Burton S. Mullins	2834	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 January 2003 .

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1 and 8 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 2-7 and 9 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ . 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 10-17 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Election was made **without** traverse in the response filed 27 January 2003.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on November 7, 2001 has been considered by the examiner.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1, 2 and 6 are objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 1, change "formed onto the outer face" to ---formed on the outer face---. In claim 2, change "comprising" to ---comprises---. In claim 6, line 2, after "slot," insert --and--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards

as the invention. In claim 8, “a projection is provided more towards an outer position than the plate” is vague and indefinite. Further, “inner face” and “outer face” are indefinite and recitations “outer position” and “bottom of the slot” lack antecedent basis and are indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Le Flem (US 5,866,959) in view of Balke et al. (US 3,505,729). Le Flem teaches a rotating electric machine having a stator 101 (Fig.8) housing coils 103 in a slot 102, the opening of the slot being closed (by wedges 104, Fig.7), and a cooling passage (recesses 120, c.7, lines 32-34) formed on an inner section of the slot 102, the rotating electrical machine comprising a plate (wedge 104) disposed in proximity to the opening of the slot and closing the opening of the slot.

Le Flem does not teach a resin layer formed onto the outer face of the plate, with the resin layer also closing the opening of the slot.

Balke teaches a stator including core 11 having slots 13 filled with winding coils and slot liners 25 and further including protecting means 30 comprising a layer of resin impregnated nonconducting fiber applied to the stator bore, thereby covering the slot liners 25

and slot openings (not numbered). The resin/protecting layer 30 provides environmental protection (c.2, lines 15-19).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify Le Flem and provide a resin layer per Balke since the resin layer would have provided environmental protection.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 2-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Regarding claim 2, the prior art, in particular Le Flem and Balke, does not teach that the plate comprises a leg which extends into the slot. Regarding claim 4, the prior art does not teach a stopper projecting from an inner peripheral face of the slot, wherein the plate comes into contact with the stopper. Regarding claim 8, the prior art does not teach a projection provided at a more radially-outside position than the plate, the projection being in proximity to the opening of the slot, with a leg provided on the plate that extends into the slot, the outer face of the plate in close contact with the inner face of the projection due to contact of the leg with the bottom of the slot.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Burton S. Mullins whose telephone number is 305-7063. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on 308-1371. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 305-1341 for regular communications and 305-1341 for After Final communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 308-0956.



Burton S. Mullins
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2834

bsm
April 16, 2003